Amendments in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954

2230. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has proposed amendments to various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and a draft Bill in this regard has been sent to Government for their approval;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are in the process of reviewing the entire gamut of this proposal;

(c) if so, whether any decisions has been taken in the matter; and

(d) if not, by when the final decision on this proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 1999 proposing amendments in certain provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 particulalry in relation to sampling procedure and cognizance of offences, was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from Government of Maharashtra in July, 1999, for obtaining the administrative approval of Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature. Subsequently, a copy of the said Bill was sent by the Maharashtra Government to this Ministry also for getting it ratified by the Central Committee for Food Standards. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been itself in the process of undertaking a thorough review of the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 considering the Reports Recommendations of various Committees and Organisations received in the Ministry on the subject. The Government of Maharashtra has been apprised of the position accordingly through the Ministry of Home Affairs.